



# Instructional Technology Newsline

Department of Elementary and Secondary Education

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[divimprove\instrtech\newsletters](mailto:divimprove\instrtech\newsletters)

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## ◆ **Instructional Technology Update**

### **Budgets / Grant Programs**

#### Missouri Technology Acquisition Grant (TAG) Program

The Department plans to submit a request to the 2005 General Assembly for \$5 million to re-instate the TAG Program for 2005-2006.

#### Missouri Safe Schools & Pilot Safe Schools Grants Program – Reminder

Districts, particularly those receiving a Pilot Schools or a Safe Schools grant, are reminded of the Missouri Association for Alternative Education (MAAE) annual conference coming up October 29-30, at the Holiday Inn Executive Center in Columbia, Missouri. The 2004 Conference: *Kindling the Spirit* will present a slate of presentations that cover a wide variety of topics on alternative education and serving at-risk students. To submit a proposal or learn more about the conference visit:

<http://maae.info/>.

#### Federal Title II.D “Ed Tech” or “EETT” Program

New resources for assessing technology readiness and use –

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) recently announced the release of tools that can be used by states, districts, and schools in assessing technology readiness and use.

The tools are based on a framework that is aligned with NCLB goals. *Profiling Educational Technology Integration (PETI): Resources for Assessing Readiness and Use* is available free to all stakeholders including states, districts, schools, and other organizations. SETDA developed the resources in conjunction with the Metiri Group and support from the U.S. Department of Education. PETI includes a framework for assessing educational technology, a matrix that links PETI indicators and questions to NCLB goals, the suite of tools for assessing technology at the district, school, and classroom levels, methodologies and protocols, sample reports, and a corporate matrix that lists organizations and corporations that provided information on how they could implement PETI. See:

<http://www.metiri.com/SETDA/PETI/>.

Congressional activity regarding future funding of Title II.D –

Last month *Newsline* detailed appropriation figures proposed by the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, and Education that included a \$91.8 million cut in FY05 Education Technology funding. The House Appropriations Committee approved the federal education bill in September. Meanwhile, the Senate Appropriations Committee approved its version of the FY05 Labor, HHS and Education Appropriations bill on September 15. The Senate bill increases funding for education programs overall by \$3.2 billion, which is \$1.1 billion more than the House's bill. Funding increases in the Senate were mainly allocated for Title I and IDEA. The Senate rejected the House's cuts to the Education Technology block grant and provided level funding at \$69.8 million. Additionally, the Senate Committee provided funding for the smaller education technology programs zeroed out in the House version, including \$24 million for the Star Schools program, a \$3.6 million increase over last year, and \$11 million for the Community Technology Centers program, a \$1.1 million increase. The Committee also funded the Statewide Data Systems program at \$40 million (\$10 million more than the House allocated), which will provide grants to states to develop longitudinal data systems to comply with No Child Left Behind. The Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers to Use Technology program received no funding in either the Senate or house versions of the FY05 spending bills.

<i>Program</i>	<i>Senate</i>	<i>House</i>
Title I grants to school districts	\$13.46 billion	\$13.34 billion
Title II professional development	\$2.975 billion	\$2.95 million
Title II education technology block grant	\$691.8 million	\$600 million
Preparing Tomorrow's Teachers	\$0	\$0
Community Technology Centers	\$11 million	\$0
Star Schools	\$24 million	\$0
Statewide data systems	\$40 million	\$30 million
IDEA	\$12.3 billion	\$12.2 billion

With limited time left, it is very unlikely that the Senate bill will be approved by the full Senate before Congress' scheduled October 8<sup>th</sup> recess. The most likely scenario is that Congress will combine the remaining uncompleted appropriations bills, including the Labor, HHS and Education bill, into an Omnibus Appropriations bill and attempt to pass it sometime before the election and possibly as late as next February. As part of the Omnibus process, the Senate and House Appropriations Conference Committee will have to negotiate the various funding levels of the programs. It is unknown whether the Conference Committee will split the difference on the relative EETT funding levels, or whether the

House will agree to the Senate funding level for the program. Since the FY2005 fiscal year begins October 1, and very few FY05 programs have had their funding approved, Congress is expected to approve a five to six-week continuing resolution (CR) that will fund all programs at FY04 levels until it either passes an omnibus bill or approves another CR.

## **Census of Technology**

### 2004 COT Data Collection and Reporting

The data warehouse glitch reported last month has been resolved, and completion of the statewide report is projected for early October. The 2004 COT data indicate continuing trends in schools making education technology resources available and in educators and students making effective use of those technologies. Likely due to funding decreases in 2003-2004, the 2004 COT shows little growth in new technology holdings – the smallest noted since COT was begun in 1997. Nonetheless, districts and schools report improvements in routine uses and overall technology skills.

### 2005 COT Item Review

A draft of the 2005 COT items is available for review and comment. The Department is pleased to report that another 25 percent of the items of the items have been removed from the technology core data system. The 2005 core data screens (30 and 31) will address around 30 items instead of the 43 asked in 2004 and the more than 70 items asked in 2001 and 2002. Contact Instructional Technology if you are interested in participating in this process.

## **E-rate Program**

### SLD suspension of issuing funding commitment decision letters

It was reported last month that the FCC ordered the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC) to convert to a new accounting standard (Government GAAP) under which funds can only be obligated if USAC has money in the bank. As a result, USAC decided in early August to suspend mailing out any funding commitment decision letters (FCDLs) until the issue is resolved. Last week it was reported that USAC is negotiating with the FCC on how best to handle the situation and hopes to reach some kind of decision by October 1.

The possible effects of this ruling are far reaching. In the short term, if no resolution is reached by the opening on the next application window in November, most applicants will not know how much or what to apply for next year. To date, only \$760 million in FCDLs out of \$2.25 billion have been made. In the longer term, if the Government GAAP rules remain in place, FCDLs will only be sent out based on how much has been collected, thereby delaying many applications for months. This may deter eligible entities from participating and cool interest in the program. If the Government GAAP rules remain in place, USAC may be forced to ramp up or ramp down collections at various points in the funding year, thereby causing great fluctuations in phone bills and possibly leading to political controversy.

### House hearing on more allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse

During a September 22nd hearing in the House Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on E-rate waste, fraud, and abuse, House Energy and Commerce Chairman Joe Barton (R-TX) lambasted the administration of the program and proposed major changes to the program's structure to reduce the number of waste, fraud and abuse cases. Specifically, Barton proposed changing the E-rate to a loan program, with special consideration provided to low-income applicants, or funding it through local taxes rather than through the universal service fund. He even suggested that the program be frozen until major changes to the E-rate could be affected. Although new FCC Wireline Competition Bureau Chief Jeffrey Carlisle and School and Library Division President George McDonald responded that a program suspension would be overreaching, they agreed that vast restructuring of the program is necessary. They both noted that the FCC and USAC have explored several anti-abuse options, including audits, debarment rules for violators, and a revision to the discount matrix.

The September hearing was the third in a series of hearings targeting the allegations of waste, fraud, and abuse currently wracking the E-rate program. While previous hearings focused on abuses in Puerto Rico and San Francisco, this hearing investigated the "two-step procurement process," taken on behalf of companies such as NEC-BNS, VNCI, and IBM. In the IBM case, a federal investigation

was launched in May 2002 after USAC received an anonymous whistleblower letter claiming that IBM had abused the procurement process in El Paso and seven other Texas school districts in FY01 and FY02. Christopher Caine, Vice President of Governmental Programs at IBM, testified that IBM lawfully followed the E-Rate rules and that its service prices were based strictly upon the school districts' technology plans.

In all the cases addressed at the September hearing, Congressional investigators spread blame for the rule violations to the applicants (including superintendents, technology directors and others), service providers, third-party E-rate consultants, and government agencies alike. Although the critical tone of the hearing seemed to suggest that the Committee is poised to undertake a major overhaul of the E-Rate program next year, Subcommittee Ranking Member, Rep. Diana DeGette (D-CO) attempted to moderate the tone by questioning the most appropriate way to make these changes. Rep. DeGette mentioned that some suggested reforms, including the proposed adjustment of the discount matrix, may cause more harm than good by targeting those schools and libraries that depend on the highest discount rates to maintain existing connections. Other mechanisms to curb abuse, such as application audits, are already underway and USAC hopes to complete 250 audits of E-rate applications by the end of this year.

### **District Technology Plan Approval**

Last month, *Newsline* detailed the changes that the FCC Fifth Report and Order – FCC 04-190 made regarding the timing, content, and approval of district technology plans. With these changes, the Department is encouraging all districts to examine current technology plans to determine whether new or revised plans should be submitted for state approval in 2005. Districts that received state approval in 2003 (and 2004, possibly) should elect to submit new plans (in 2005 rather than wait until 2006) if any of the following conditions are in place:

- the 2003 plan must be updated to cover technologies proposed in an E-rate application
- the district has a new or substantially updated comprehensive school improvement plan (CSIP)
- the district has already completed most of the action plans and implementation strategies detailed in the 2003 technology plan
- the district has experienced significant changes that necessitate a new plan (changes in personnel, academic performance standings, technology holdings, technical capacity, etc.)
- the plan approved in 2003 received a low approval score (75 to 85 points)

Districts electing to submit plans early and desiring technical assistance should contact Instructional Technology and/or the Missouri Educational Technology Professionals Association (METPA). Depending on district need and interest, METPA members are again poised to offer workshops and review draft plans.

#### 2005 District tech plan approval process

District technology plans are reviewed by a panel of Missouri educators and scored using a 100-point scoring guide. The scoring guide, updated in 2004, can be downloaded from Instructional Technology's district tech planning website at:

<http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/techplan/techplan.htm>. To submit a plan for state approval, complete the top portion on page one of the scoring guide as indicated and send the guide along with one [1] technology plan to the following address no later than March 31: DESE Instructional Technology, PO Box 480, Jefferson City, MO 65102-0480. Plans submitted by the March 31 deadline will be reviewed on April 15, with approval status determined no later than June 30, thereby meeting the timing deadline for e-rate applications. Contact Instructional Technology if you are interested in participating in the review process.

### **Other Washington news**

#### Congress Moves to Conference IDEA Bills

After months of inactivity, the House and Senate announced who will serve on the conference committee to iron-out differences between House and Senate versions of the reauthorization of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). Although conferees have been announced, the conference committee will not meet until after the elections in order to de-politicize the bill and build

consensus to pass it this year. The Senate conference committee group will consist of all the members of the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

Most importantly for education technology, the Senate version of the bill includes a number of provisions designed to improve the development and usage of technology by and for students with disabilities. Under the Senate's new Part B, states would be permitted to use IDEA funds to support the development and use of technology (including universally designed technologies and assistive technology devices and services), to enhance learning and maximize accessibility to the general curriculum. Part D of the Senate bill includes a new finding that support is needed to improve technological resources and integrate technology, including universally designed technologies, into the lives of children; it also allows Professional Development grants to be used for, among other things, encouraging and supporting the training of teachers to effectively integrate technology into the classroom. In addition, Part D of the Senate bill contains a new priority for projects that promote the development and use of universally designed technologies, and assistive technology devices and services. The new National Center for Special Education Research established in the Senate bill also has a universal design focus, as it is charged with examining and incorporating universal design concepts in the development of standards, assessments, curricula, and instructional methods.

#### FCC Releases NPRM on CALEA Implementation for Broadband

The FCC recently issued a NPRM asking for comments on a proposal to extend the Communications Assistance for Law Enforcement Act (CALEA) from traditional telecommunication networks (i.e. standard telephone) to broadband providers. The order has provoked widespread concern from broadband providers and Internet advocates, who believe that the proposal runs contrary to the CALEA statute, and would drive up costs, threaten innovation, and reduce privacy on the Internet. Of particular concern to educators, the NPRM extends CALEA obligations to the commercial Internet backbone and appears to go beyond, "common carriers," specified in the statute to reach educational networks like Internet II, the Abeline Network, and state education networks that aggregate traffic to these networks.

Adopted by Congress in 1994, CALEA defines the statutory obligation of telecommunications carriers to assist law enforcement in executing electronic surveillance pursuant to court order or other lawful authorization, and requires carriers to design or modify their systems to ensure that lawfully authorized electronic surveillance can be performed. For example, telecommunication providers have to configure their, "equipment, facilities and services in a manner that permits isolation, interceptions and collection of communication call identifying information." In addition, providers have the obligation to collect and deliver the information to law enforcement. Pursuant to CALEA, there have been multiple proceedings at the FCC to determine acceptable industry standards, cost reimbursements, upgrades, changes in technology, and the like.

In the most recent proceeding, the FBI petitioned the FCC to expand the reach of CALEA to broadband networks, which would include broadband Internet communications, wireless broadband, Voice Over IP (VoIP) services such as Vonage, and, "push-to-talk," communication, such as Nextel. Many advocates believe that the language of the NPRM fails to recognize the scale and complexity of the networks that may be affected by CALEA or the complexity and cost of compliance.

The NPRM can be found at: [fwebgate5.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=317369522230+8+0+0&WAIAction=retrieve](http://www.fwebgate5.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/waisgate.cgi?WAISdocID=317369522230+8+0+0&WAIAction=retrieve). Comments are due in early November.



## **Ed Tech Research, Publications, Resources**

### **SETDA releases Profiling Educational Technology Integration (PETI) resources**

The State Educational Technology Directors Association (SETDA) announced the release of *Profiling Educational Technology Integration: Resources for Assessing Readiness and Use*, available free to all stakeholders including states, districts, schools, and other organizations. Representing consensus and work of state directors from over 30 states, PETI is designed to assist states in implementing NCLB and evaluating the effectiveness of educational technology in all educational environments. SETDA developed the framework, instruments, and protocols in conjunction with the Metiri Group and support from the U.S. Department of Education. The instruments and protocols were validated

through extensive pilots in five states and examined through a peer review process. The web site includes the framework for assessing educational technology, a matrix that links PETI indicators and questions to NCLB goals, the suite of tools for assessing technology at the district, school, and classroom levels, methodologies and protocols, sample reports, and a corporate matrix that lists organizations and corporations that provided information on how they could implement PETI. To access PETI, visit <http://www.metiri.com/SETDA/PETI/>.

#### **CoSN issues cyber security resources**

The Consortium for School Networking (CoSN) has unveiled a set of free, web-based resources to help school leaders understand and assess cyber security needs. *Cyber Security for the Digital District* provides a set of tools intended to give school leaders the information they need to protect students and sensitive school data from Internet dangers such as hacking, phishing, and spyware. The materials help users to identify the status of their network security, evaluate strengths and weaknesses, and make needed improvements. A part of the web site is devoted to sharing best practices from the education community, private industry, and government institutions. Districts are encouraged to share their experiences in making their networks more secure – both for learning and operations. See: <http://www.cosn.org/>.

#### **Report on school characteristics for effective ed tech use**

In the September issue of *Education Policy Analysis Archives* (EPAA), the research study “Identifying Teacher, School and District Characteristics Associated with Elementary Teachers’ Use of Technology: A Multilevel Perspective” provides evidence that school organizational characteristics are associated with teacher use of technology in the classroom. Organizational characteristics such as district and school leadership practices and emphasis on technology, the type and amount of technology-related professional development available to teachers, and the amount of technology-related restrictive policies in place were found to be associated with the four measures of teacher use of technology examined in the study. Individual teacher characteristics such as constructivist beliefs, higher confidence using technology, and positive beliefs about the efficacy of technology were each found to be associated with increased use of technology in the classroom. See: <http://epaa.asu.edu/epaa/v12n48/>.

#### **NetDay announces results of Teacher Speak Up Day**

NetDay, with support from BellSouth, hosted Speak Up Day for Teachers - a nationwide online survey which gave teachers in all grades and subjects the opportunity to share their voices and views about their personal and professional use of technology and the Internet. More than 11,000 teachers from 1,885 schools in 50 states completed the online survey. The survey found teachers are using technology to enrich their lessons plans and to engage students in learning. Results also revealed that teachers are relying more and more on technology to meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind. “What we found during Speak Up Day for Teachers is that technology is really taking hold in America’s classrooms and teachers are increasingly more comfortable using it to deliver lessons,” said Julie Evans, CEO, NetDay. “However, teachers also told us that, with technology becoming as commonplace in schools as chalkboards, they need better training and a greater voice in technology decisions.” To learn more about NetDay and findings from the 2004 Teacher Speak Up Day, visit: <http://www.netday.org/>.

#### **Brief on Children, The Digital Divide, and Federal Policy**

An issue brief prepared by the Kaiser Family Foundation, “Children, The Digital Divide, and Federal Policy”, includes new research findings and reviews the latest information on wiring the nation’s schools and libraries, including points of access, the speed of connection, and what children are doing online. The report also examines current federal policies and policy ideas that could address the new digital divide.

The report indicates that federal policies and funding have contributed substantially to reducing the “digital divide,” but the quality of access remains very unequal for too many children. The study finds that school-aged children with less-educated parents or who attend school in lower-income communities are significantly less likely than other children to use the Internet in a typical day or to have Internet access from their homes. This is the tenth in a series of reports on topics related to children, media and health that pull together the most relevant research on such issues as TV



violence, teens online, media ratings, and children and video games. See:  
<http://www.kff.org/entmedia/entmedia091604pkg.cfm>



## **2004 MOREnet E-rate Regional Training Sessions**

*--Submitted by Eric Nicklas, Program Manager, K-12 Technology Network Program, MOREnet*

In late October and early November of 2004, MOREnet will conduct regional training sessions on the E-rate program. These sessions are intended as an introduction to the program. During this training, participants will receive an overview of the E-rate program, including eligible services, the application process and the required forms. Form 471 will be covered in-depth to provide the knowledge needed to complete an application this fall.

Training registration: To register for an E-rate regional training session, please e-mail [training@more.net](mailto:training@more.net) or call (800) 509-6673 and ask for Krista Hediger. Please include your name, daytime phone number, e-mail address, organization and location and date of the training session you wish to attend.

### **Sikeston**

Oct. 19

1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Sikeston School District

### **West Plains**

Oct. 20

8:30 a.m. – Noon

West Plains Public Library

### **Webb City**

Oct. 21

8:30 a.m. - Noon

Southwest Center for Educational Excellence

### **Independence**

Oct. 22

1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Mid-Continent Public Library

Administrative Headquarters

### **Kirksville**

Nov. 3

1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

Kirksville Regional TCRC

### **Camdenton**

Nov. 9

1:00 – 4:30 p.m.

Camden County School District

Administration Building

### **St. Peters**

Nov. 11

1:00 - 4:30 p.m.

St. Charles City-County Library

Administration Offices

## **Free Tool for Managing E-rate**

<http://www.fundsforlearning.com>

<http://www.eratemanager.com>

Funds for Learning has created the “E-rate Manager SL”, a free tool for school districts to use to assist them in managing their E-rate applications. E-rate Manager SL for schools and libraries is designed to help you receive all the E-rate discounts you worked so hard to get approved.

Funds For Learning (FFL) is an educational technology consulting firm specializing in the federal E-rate program. FFL helps K-12 schools, libraries and businesses benefit from this and other ed-tech funding opportunities designed to get them connected to the Internet.

How can E-rate Manager SL help you?

- It tracks how much E-rate funding you have left to use.
- It simplifies the payment paperwork.
- It helps you keep on top of the fluctuating deadlines for the Form 486, invoices and BEARS—and for using your services or getting products installed.
- It tracks the site or sites where you specified your funding will be used.
- It helps you respond to questions from program auditors.

Best of all, E-rate Manager SL is free to schools and libraries. Join the hundreds of schools, school districts and libraries that are using E-rate Manager SL to keep all their E-rate funding data and their complete E-rate program history at their fingertips. Additional information is available on the Funds for Learning website at <http://www.fundsforlearning.com> and <http://www.eratemanager.com>

## **Participate in Megaconference VI – Proposals Being Accepted**

<http://www.megaconference.org> for general information about the conference

<http://www.megaconference.org/call> to submit your proposal

Join the global conversation and submit your proposals for interactive presentations as part of MegaConference VI, December 9, 2004. Because this year's MegaConference is designed to emphasize interactive, global videoconferencing, this will be your opportunity to include more than one site in your presentation, and to extend the conversation to your audience.

The successful proposal should entice audience participation in the form of Q&A, direct participation, contribution or other dynamic interaction. Additionally, co-presenters from more than one site are encouraged. You are invited to include examples (tapes or streams) of previous interactivity as part of the real-time presentation. Prior arrangements for participation, made in cooperation with other sites, are welcomed. Presentations may include musical, dramatic or other performances. Presentations should be approximately 15 minutes in length.

Note that the conference is divided into two sections – 8 a.m. – 2 p.m. ET (12 p.m.-6 p.m. GMT) and 6 p.m.-12a.m. ET (10 p.m.-4a.m. GMT) -- with a four-hour, informal "hallway session" between them. In keeping with the conference theme, you are encouraged to "stay up late" or "get up early" in order to interact with people from other time zones around the world.

The deadline for proposals is October 29. Please submit early.

For more information contact:

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## **Show-Me TechKnowledge Day—January 19, 2005**

*--Submitted by Sally Burnett, 2005 Show-Me TechKnowledge Day Chairperson*

Do you work with students and technology in innovative ways? Would you like to showcase your students and district for policymakers throughout the state? If so, we want you!

A grassroots organization, Show-Me TechKnowledge, helps identify and support students as they exhibit effective and innovative uses of technology. State leaders, policymakers, and others are invited to the Capitol Rotunda to view the exhibits, talk to the students, and learn how education technology positively impacts teaching and learning.

Last year, 16 districts from across the state, grades K-12 participated in the event. This year's event will be held on January 19, 2005. Show-Me TechKnowledge 2005 applications from prospective student/teacher exhibitors are now being accepted. The deadline for submitting applications is December 6, 2004. Join us in celebrating your students' success – submit an application today. Check <http://successlink.org/> for information and application form.



## **Handhelds in the Classroom**

*-- Submitted by Julie Barchenski, SuccessLink*

<http://successlink.org/>

Handheld computers are causing quite a stir in Missouri. SuccessLink, a grant program in conjunction with the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, is providing support and training to teachers and students in over 65 schools this year.

Elliot Soloway, a Professor in the College of Engineering, School of Education and School of Information at the University of Michigan, and his colleagues in the Center for Highly Interactive Computing in Education (Hi-CE) have been exploring, for the last 10 years, ways in which computing and communications technologies can be the catalyst in bringing a constructivist, project-based pedagogy to K-12 science classrooms. According to Soloway, constant and consistent access to handhelds can have a positive effect on student learning. In his keynote during the opening session of the Technology Leadership Academy, Soloway commented that, while the impact of computers in schools has been disappointing to many because of their limited access and use, a handheld computer allows the student to have his or her "computer" with them at all times. The low cost of a handheld provides the opportunity for full time access for each student. And the small size of the handheld allows for easy portability. Students can pull their handhelds out of their book bags or desks anytime they need to.

Midway Heights librarian, Wende Geitz, is one of 19 educators who went through the SuccessLink training on handheld computers. Each of twenty-one fourth-graders at her school was assigned a Palm M-130, along with an attachable keyboard, that could be taken home at night. The Midway Heights package valued at about \$7000, just a fraction of what it would cost to give each child a laptop computer said Stacey Franks, state coordinator for SuccessLink's handheld project.

"The handhelds are causing quite a stir here at Midway, a good stir!" Stated Ms. Geitz. "Students have been able to take them home and are using programs like MathCard and Giraffe. They are using them so much that they need to be charged on a daily basis! Students are doing upwards of 150 MathCard problems a night! It's unbelievable."

Fellow fourth-grade teacher at Midway Heights, Candace Jorgenson, said she's seen a noticeable improvement in math performance because students like practicing on the computer. Fourth-graders can be seen practicing math while waiting in the lunch line or at other times when they have a spare minute, Midway Heights teachers said. Before each lesson Ms. Jorgenson has students warm up by answering as many times-tables problems as they can in two minutes. When time is up, the computers instantly score their answers. "The high score has gone from 19/21 to 41/41 in just one week."

Dr. Mark Yehle, director of SuccessLink, believes the use of handheld computers is the biggest “sea change” he has seen in his 37 years in education. Dr. Yehle said that the small handheld computers are really different because of “access”. Schools can now reach that 1:1 ratio because the handheld computers have much the same power as a desktop computer and only cost around \$200. The portability of the handheld computers opens a myriad of new uses by the students. Almost 2,000 educational software packages have been written for handhelds and many are free.”

For further information, Stacey Franks and Dr. Yehle can be reached at 573-636-4395.



#### **Free Truancy Reduction Materials Available for Missouri Courts and Schools**

--Submitted by Tina O. Hageman, MSW, MBA, Program Coordinator, St. Louis County Truancy Court  
[truancycourt@yahoo.com](mailto:truancycourt@yahoo.com)

Looking for a way to combat truancy in your community? St. Louis County Truancy Court has been recognized in Missouri and beyond as an effective truancy reduction program worthy of replication. In the school-based court diversion program, volunteer judges team with school staff and deputy juvenile officers to provide positive reinforcement, accountability and character education in weekly truancy “court” sessions. Over 60% of the students respond with significant improvements in school attendance.

With funds provided by the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and provided through a grant made available through the Missouri Department of Public Safety, Office of the Director and the Missouri Juvenile Justice Group, **St. Louis County Truancy Court is distributing comprehensive training and implementation materials to interested courts, schools, and agencies at no charge.** Additional funding for the St. Louis County Truancy Court is provided through a Safe Schools Grant from the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education, a Juvenile Accountability Block Grant and a Title II grant from the Missouri Department of Public Safety, and contributions from each participating school district.

Contact [truancycourt@yahoo.com](mailto:truancycourt@yahoo.com) to request a training manual and video on how to develop and implement a “truancy court” in your community. Please provide your name, organization, mailing address, and phone number. Materials are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.



#### **SBC Technology Seminar-October 12, 2004-Marceline, MO**

--Submitted by Lora Smith, Education Advocate, SBC

The SBC Family of Companies invites you to attend their Technology Seminar on October 12, 2004 at the Walsworth Community Center, 124 E. Ritchie, Marceline, Missouri. Topics include:

- E-rate Funding
- Legislative Forum
- Technical Applications
- Interactive Sessions

You will learn about technologies to assist you in being a leading force in your community, to assure safety, and optimize efficiency.

E-rate funding that supports your technology needs will be discussed and you will have the opportunity to dialogue with Missouri legislators on education initiatives.

For those Higher Education or K-12 customers not interested in E-rate, you are welcome to join us beginning at 11:15 for lunch and the balance of the presentation.

Please RSVP via email to [ls8179@sbc.com](mailto:ls8179@sbc.com) to confirm your participation in the Seminar.

## ◆ Missouri Schools and Programs in the News

### Jefferson City School District

Linda Eisinger, a third grade teacher at West Elementary School in the Jefferson City School District, was selected Missouri Teacher of the Year for 2004-2005. A selection committee appointed by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education interviewed six state-level finalists to select the new Teacher of the Year. The Missouri Teacher of the Year program is conducted by the Department of Elementary and Secondary Education with financial support provided by the Boeing Company, St. Louis. Mrs. Eisinger automatically becomes Missouri's candidate for the National Teacher of the Year award. Congratulations!

## ◆ eMINTS Questions of the Month

**Q.** What funding sources are available for our district to add eMINTS classrooms? We have several elementary and middle schools and want to expand into those schools.

**A.** Watch the DESE Instructional Technology website's Newsline for announcements about grant opportunities at <http://dese.mo.gov/divimprove/instrtech/newsletters/August04.html> Another source of funding is the Comprehensive School Reform (CSR) program.

These are federal funds administered by DESE. The CSR program cannot be used to add eMINTS classrooms in a school building that already is in the program, however, it can be used to add classrooms in buildings that do not have any eMINTS classrooms. The website is:

<http://www.dese.mo.gov/divimprove/fedprog/discretionarygrants/csr/index.html>  
index.html Another source of information about grant opportunities can be found at  
<http://www.emints.org/info/area1/grants.html> and on MOREnet's website at  
<http://www.more.net/services/grants/index.html>

**Q.** How long should a student be taken off the computer if they violate the Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)?

**A.** Your Acceptable Use policy and/or Classroom Use Policy should list the consequences that will occur if the policy is violated. Taking students completely off computers in an eMINTS classroom is quite similar to taking away textbooks in a teacher directed classroom. Many teachers have come up with great compromises that keep the student actively learning while limiting their opportunity to make another poor choice. One idea is to have the student banned from touching the keyboard or mouse for a few days. This means they still sit with their group or partner but the other group members do all of the actual computing skills. Some teachers have those students stay with the group but do their portion of the written work by hand. The key here is not removing a child from the learning environment and yet making a clear point that the Acceptable Use Policy will be enforced. There are some situations where extreme measures need to be taken, such as repeated offenses or students who purposely access inappropriate sites. Try to keep the same guidelines as you would with suspending a student in these cases. One to three days is usually plenty of time. (Jennifer Kuehnle)

## ◆ Copyright Question of the Month

**Q.** May an educator (e.g., administrator, classroom teacher, substitute teacher, or student teacher) other district employee, volunteer, or others read and translate a work into a student's native language and create an audio tape?

**A. No** Translation of print materials from one language to another or to an audio format creates a derivative work. This is the exclusive right of the copyright owner.

Note: Permission to change print materials to audio format must be requested from the copyright owner.



## Grant Writing Tips

[www.techlearning.com/grants.html](http://www.techlearning.com/grants.html)

Source: Technology & Learning

1. TIP: Who will evaluate the program? It's not unusual for grant guidelines to require an outside evaluator. If you choose well, your outside evaluator will help develop evaluation instruments, implement the evaluation plan, and will provide an unbiased analysis of the data for reporting purposes.
2. NCLB TIP: Alignment of the curriculum with state standards and assessments is an important piece of No Child Left Behind legislation. Software and Web-based systems can be used to facilitate and document this alignment. Include the use of technology for this purpose in your funding proposals.
3. TIP: How will your project impact others? Grantors are more likely to fund programs that can be replicated or adapted in other situations. Explain how you will document and evaluate the program and how this information will be disseminated to others.
4. NCLB TIP: Private schools are eligible to share in No Child Left Behind funds awarded to public school districts. Many private schools have students eligible for services provided by NCLB funding. Public school proposals must include a description of methods used to consult with the private schools in the district's service area to provide equitable services to these students. Private school educators may also be eligible for such funds for professional development.
5. TIP: What's your sustainability track record? Most grantors want to support institutions that have successfully sustained other grants beyond the original funding period. Research your district's success in this area and include that data in a specific sustainability plan.
6. NCLB TIP: No Child Left Behind legislation requires dramatically increased home/school communications. Federal funds may be used to ratchet up your existing communications systems. Communication channels including email, the school Web site, and telephone-based messaging systems are all eligible for financial support.



## Grant Funding Opportunities

Source: Technology & Learning

For descriptions of the individual grants, go to the [www.techlearning.com/grants.html](http://www.techlearning.com/grants.html)

Deadline	Grant
October 12	The National Science Foundation's Research Experiences for Teachers (RET) Program <a href="http://www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf03554">www.nsf.gov/pubsys/ods/getpub.cfm?nsf03554</a>
October 15	Home Depot's At-Risk Youth Grants <a href="http://www.homedepot.com">www.homedepot.com</a>
October 22	NASA Office of Space Science's Initiative to Develop Education through Astronomy and Space Science (IDEAS) Grants <a href="http://ideas.stsci.edu">http://ideas.stsci.edu</a>
November 1	American Honda Foundation Grant <a href="http://www.honda.com">www.honda.com</a>
November 1	Tiger Woods Foundation <a href="http://www.twfound.org">www.twfound.org</a>
November 15	Shell Science Teaching Award <a href="http://www.nsta.org/awardscomp">www.nsta.org/awardscomp</a>
Ongoing	Educational Foundation of America Grants <a href="http://www.efaw.org">www.efaw.org</a>

Ongoing	Intel Community Grants <a href="http://www.intel.com">www.intel.com</a>
December 5	The National Council of Teachers of Mathematics offers several grants for teachers through the Mathematics Education Trust (MET): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clarence Olander Grants: In-Service Training for Elementary Schools</li> <li>• Dale Seymour Scholarships</li> <li>• E. Glenadine Gibb</li> <li>• Ernest Duncan Grants (teachers 7-12)</li> <li>• Mary Dolciani Grants (teachers 7-12)</li> <li>• John and Stacey Wahl Grants</li> <li>• Theoni Pappas Incentive Grants</li> </ul> <a href="http://www.nctm.org/about/met">www.nctm.org/about/met</a>
January 7	Toyota TIME (Toyota's Investment in Mathematics Excellence) Grants <a href="http://www.nctm.org/about/toyota/index.asp">www.nctm.org/about/toyota/index.asp</a>
January 15	The International Reading Association sponsors several grant opportunities for IRA members: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Elva Knight Research Grants</li> <li>• The Helen M. Robinson Grant</li> <li>• Nila Banton Smith Research Dissemination Support Grants</li> <li>• Teacher as Researcher Grants</li> </ul> <a href="http://www.reading.org/awards">www.reading.org/awards</a>
February 1	Tiger Woods Foundation Grants <a href="http://www.twfound.org">www.twfound.org</a>
February 1	American Honda Foundation Grants <a href="http://www.honda.com">www.honda.com</a>
February 1	American Association of School Librarians/Highsmith Research ABC-CLIO Leadership Grants <a href="http://www.ala.org/aasl/awards.html">www.ala.org/aasl/awards.html</a>
February 15	NEA's Innovation and Learning & Leadership Grants <a href="http://www.nfie.org">www.nfie.org</a>



## Mark Your Calendar

October 1	Newsline published online
October 11	Columbus Day - State offices closed
October 14	MO Rural Opportunities Council Telecommunications/Education Committee Meeting (1:15 p.m.-3:30 p.m.) Governor Office Building, Room 316, Jefferson City, MO
October 25	Newsline articles due
November 1	Newsline published online
November 11	Veteran's Day - State offices closed



## Upcoming 2004-2005 Conferences

October 1	Software Plus Third Annual Conference (FREE) Junior League of St. Louis 10435 Clayton Rd., St. Louis, MO 63131 888-251-7638 ext 129
October 3-5	Technology Exploration: Improving Teaching and Learning 2004 Missouri Educational Technology Conference Tan-Tar-A, Osage Beach, MO <a href="http://www.more.net/conferences/fall2004/">http://www.more.net/conferences/fall2004/</a>

October 4-5	2004 Virtual High School Symposium Grand Hyatt Atlanta Atlanta, GA <a href="http://www.eClassroom.com/VHS2004">http://www.eClassroom.com/VHS2004</a> .
October 19-22	EDUCAUSE 2004 Denver, CO <a href="http://www.educause.edu/conference/annual/2004/">http://www.educause.edu/conference/annual/2004/</a>
October 25-26	K-12 Interactive Video Conference Indianapolis, IN <a href="http://www.k12videoconf.org/">http://www.k12videoconf.org/</a>
December 9-12	ACTE Annual Convention and Career Tech Expo Las Vegas, NV <a href="http://www.acteonline.org/convention/index.cfm">http://www.acteonline.org/convention/index.cfm</a>
April 3-5, 2005	Preparing the Next Generation for Technological Literacy ITEA Conference and Exhibition Kansas City, MO <a href="http://www.iteawww.org/D2.html">http://www.iteawww.org/D2.html</a> .



## From the Mailbag

### Hewlett-Packard Middle School Science Leadership Grant

[http://grants.hp.com/us/programs/science\\_leadership.html](http://grants.hp.com/us/programs/science_leadership.html)

(Deadline: October 8th, 2004) Hewlett-Packard has recently issued a Request for Proposals for middle schools who would like to attend the LASER Middle School Science Leadership Symposium to be held in Atlanta, GA this coming December. Districts in which more than 50% of the students are eligible for free or reduced-price lunch may apply for this grant from HP. Up to 11 middle school teams will be selected to receive a scholarship package that covers the cost of symposium registration as well as a "presentation package" of HP technology valued at approximately \$6,000 (laptop, projector, and digital camera). The HP grant application and LASER registration must be completed and returned to the NSRC before October 8th.

### Intel "Schools of Distinction" Award

<http://www.schoolsofdistinction.com/>

Deadline: December 1, 2004. Intel Corporation, Scholastic Inc., and Blue Ribbon Schools of Excellence, Inc., are conducting a search of elementary, middle, and high schools that demonstrate excellence in any of ten categories - from Academic Achievement to Technology Excellence. In addition to prizes consisting of equipment, software, and services, winning schools will receive \$10,000 - and two schools selected from these winners will be designated as "Best of the Best." These schools will receive an additional \$15,000. Last year's overall prize package was valued at over \$120,000 per school.

### Inspired Teacher Scholarships for Visual Learning program

<http://www.inspiration.com/scholarship>

Inspiration Software Opportunities: Inspiration Software(r), Inc. is pleased to announce the seventh annual Inspired Teacher Scholarships for Visual Learning program! Applications are now available online at <http://www.inspiration.com/scholarship>. AWARDS FOR CHAMPIONS OF VISUAL LEARNING - The scholarship program offers 25 scholarships in the amount of \$750 each to educators who champion visual learning and technology in their classrooms, schools or districts. NEW!! ROOKIE AWARDS - This year, Inspiration Software is also offering five Inspired Teacher Scholarship Rookie Awards in the amount of \$750 each to educators who are new to the area of visual learning, but are ready to learn more. The 30 scholarship recipients will be chosen on the basis



of applications evaluated per published criteria. Scholarships can be used for professional development activities in the area of visual learning and technology. Scholarship applications are due on or before January 27, 2005. Scholarship recipients will be notified by March 17, 2005. Learn more about the 2005 Scholarships program, download application forms and apply online.

Annenberg Foundation Professional Development Opportunities: "Do the Write Thing"

<http://www.learner.org/redirect/september/write5.html>

Whether writing skills are being tested or not, we educators know they are critical to our young people. Annenberg/CPB will premiere two new free workshops this fall that focus on teaching writing: "Write in the Middle: A Workshop for Middle School Teachers" is designed to help teachers learn effective practices and strategies to use with middle school students in writing instruction. The eight-part workshop will air Mondays, September 20-November 15.

"Developing Writers: A Workshop for High School Teachers"

<http://www.learner.org/redirect/september/developing6.html>

Practical and philosophical advice for teaching writing, while examining issues every teacher faces. This eight-part workshop will air Mondays, October 25-December 20.

Free Paint Shop Pro and Paint Shop Pro Studio for Teacher Training Centers

New Teacher Training Program Enables Educators to Stay Current with Advanced Digital Image Editing Software

Minneapolis, Minnesota (September 20, 2004) – Jasc® Software, Inc. announced today that Paint Shop™ Pro® 9 and Paint Shop™ Pro® Studio are available free of charge to teacher training centers. The Teacher Training Program allows school districts to get teachers trained on the latest advances in digital image editing software so they can evaluate the technology for preparing lesson plans, presentations, web projects, and use in the classroom without burdening school district budgets. The program is available to educators at technical schools, colleges, universities, and K-12 in the United States and Canada.

Launched this month, Paint Shop Pro Studio and Paint Shop Pro 9 are two new products that offer users at all skill levels software tailored to their needs. Paint Shop Pro 9 is a professional-strength product for photo editing, graphic design, and digital art. Paint Shop Pro Studio is a Jasc photo editor that includes an Idea Book and learning tools for those who want to do more than novice editing without a steep learning curve.

NSF Information Technology Experiences for Students and Teachers (ITEST)

[Owner-grants-1@more.net](mailto:Owner-grants-1@more.net)

Preliminary Proposal Due Date(s) (required): November 01, 2004

Full Proposal Deadline(s) (due by 5 p.m. proposer's local time): February 09, 2005

Synopsis of Program:

ITEST is designed to increase the opportunities for students and teachers to learn about, experience, and use information technologies within the context of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM), including Information Technology (IT) courses. It is in direct response to the concern about shortages of technology workers in the United States. Supported projects are intended to provide opportunities for both school-age children and for teachers to build the skills and knowledge needed to advance their study, and to function and contribute in a technologically rich society.

ITEST has two components: (a) youth-based projects with strong emphases on career and educational paths; and (b) comprehensive projects for students and teachers.

This solicitation complements and is not intended to overlap with the Advanced Technological Education (ATE) program described in Section I. Information Technology (IT) is within the scope of the ATE program, so proposals for the development of IT classroom materials for students or teachers, or for professional development of IT teachers in support of technical careers, should be submitted to the ATE program.

#### Digital Accessibility Solutions for Literacy and Special Education - by Colligo

[http://www.colligo.us/Colligo\\_504r.pps](http://www.colligo.us/Colligo_504r.pps)

Colligo provides the most cost effective, easiest to use, and most versatile digital accessibility solutions for individuals with Vision Impairments, Literacy Challenges and Reading Difficulties. People across the nation are benefiting from these tools, assisting them to read, read more easily, more rapidly, with more comprehension, developing better reading skills and a more Independent way of life. Please see below a link to our capabilities brochure that outlines our solutions. Please pass this information along to others you feel may benefit. Colligo Capabilities Brochure:

[http://www.colligo.us/Colligo\\_504r.pps](http://www.colligo.us/Colligo_504r.pps)

Note: This presentation requires Microsoft PowerPoint. If you do not have Microsoft PowerPoint click [here](#) to download a free 'PowerPoint Viewer'. We want to address any questions or comments you and your colleagues may have. Please call us Toll Free at [888] 647-3404 or e-mail us at [info@colligo.us](mailto:info@colligo.us).

#### Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award

[http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan\\_shepard\\_award.htm](http://www.amfcse.org/Alan%20Shepard%20Award/alan_shepard_award.htm)

The Astronauts Memorial Foundation (AMF) in partnership with the Space Foundation and NASA is currently accepting applications for the 2005 Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award.

In a continuing effort to recognize outstanding contributions by K-12 educators and district level personnel in the field of educational technology, the Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award was created in 2001. The purpose of this Award is to acknowledge individual contributions and exceptional accomplishments in technology use.

The Alan Shepard Technology in Education Award is open to all K-12 district or school level educators from across the nation. The Award will be presented by AMF, the Space Foundation and NASA at the 21<sup>st</sup> National Space Symposium in Colorado Springs, Colorado in April 2005. The winner will be flown to Colorado Springs, where hotel accommodations will be provided. The winner will also receive a state-of-the-art Personal Digital Assistant and a commemorative trophy with his or her name engraved. In addition the Award winner's name will be placed on a plaque honoring past recipients that is housed in the Center for Space Education at the Kennedy Space Center in Florida.

Since the inception of this Award, we have received many outstanding applications and are appreciative of the many dedicated individuals who are contributing to the success of integrating technology into the educational environment. All applications must be postmarked on or before February 4, 2005.

#### Welcome to the After-School Program Clearinghouse

<http://www.mentoring.org/afterschool/index.adp>

Interest in programs designed for non-school hours, especially those designated for after-school, has been rising because such programs can:

1. Provide children with supervision during a time when they might engage in antisocial and destructive behaviors;
2. Provide enriching experiences that broaden children's perspective and improve their socialization; and
3. Improve the academic achievement of students who are not accomplishing as much as they need to during regular school hours.

This clearinghouse is designed to provide you with tools and resources to add a mentoring component to your after-school program. It also provides resources you can use to implement, manage and strengthen your after-school program. Here you'll find:

- Information on how to [implement a mentoring component](#) in a new or existing after-school program.
- Clearinghouse of after-school program resources, including:

1. [Program Planning and Design](#): How to start an after-school program, [best practices](#) and more;
  2. [Program Management](#): Fundraising, staff/professional development, training, developing partnerships and more;
  3. [Program Operations](#): Resources on activities and curriculum guides, standards, research and more;
  4. [Program Evaluation](#): Evaluation and [research](#) on after-school initiatives, outcomes, best practices and more; and
  5. [After-school Resources](#): journals, articles, issue papers, archives and statistics.
- [Mentor Trainer's Manual](#)
  - Listing of Web sites of interest to after-school programs.  
([PDF File with links](#)) ([PDF File without links](#))
  - Customizable [sample tools and templates](#) on a variety of issues related to mentoring in after-school settings.
  - Access to MENTOR's [Online Community](#), which features interactive discussions and resources on issues of interest to mentoring programs.
  - Downloadable [Best Practice Summaries](#) highlighting key ideas and resources from the Online Community discussions are available.

#### Fujifilm's Products for Learning

<http://www.fujifilm.com/JSP/fuji/epartners/LearningLessonPlans.jsp> provides lesson plans that teachers may integrate into curriculum to inspire students to reach new levels of creative expression and communication. Teachers are encouraged to modify the lesson plans so they more closely align with curriculum, standards, and learning objectives. They may adapt the lesson plans for grade level, discipline, and diverse populations.

The Products for Learning program is Fujifilm's way of rewarding individual educators who understand the value of integrating imaging and information technology into everyday classroom lessons. Fujifilm is looking for lesson plans that have educational merit and clearly demonstrate the creative integration of imaging and information technology into teaching and learning. Fujifilm invites educators to submit proposals outlining why they should receive a Fujifilm Products for Learning project donation.

Those whose proposals are accepted will receive appropriate Fujifilm imaging and information products to enhance and enrich the learning experience. Product donations are determined by:

- Creativity demonstrated by teachers in their response to the Application question that pertains to the learning objectives
- Product availability
- Need

#### From the Children's Book Council (CBC)

Let's Book: Children's Book Week: November 15 - 21, 2004

<http://www.cbcbooks.org/cbw/>

Let's rock... let's roll... let's move... let's go... let's discover... let's fly... let's do it all... with children's books. Get ready for Children's Book Week 2004 with this colorful and engaging collection of decorative materials from some of today's hottest illustrators. Since 1919, educators, librarians, booksellers, and families have celebrated Children's Book Week during the week before Thanksgiving. So, this year—join the party and share the joy of reading... Let's Book.

A celebration of the written word, Children's Book Week introduces young people to new authors and ideas in schools, libraries, homes and bookstores. Through Children's Book Week, the Children's Book Council encourages young people and their caregivers to discover the complexity of the world beyond their own experience through books.

#### eSchool PLUS Web Student Management

[www.pentamation.com](http://www.pentamation.com)

eSchoolPLUS is a true web-based, district-wide student management system for K-12 schools. It is a single system which offers all educational stakeholders-school administrators, district staff, teachers, parents, and board members-the ability to easily manage or immediately access the summary and detail student information they need, when they need it! Most importantly, eSchoolPLUS is intuitive to use and simple to deploy making it a very cost effective student information system for K-12 schools.

### **Internet Sites of Interest**

#### Computer Security Awareness Month

<http://dese.mo.gov/divadm/infotech/cybersecuritymonth.htm>

#### Cyber Security Day—October 31, 2004

<http://www.staysafeonline.info/>

#### US National Archives and Records Administration (NARA)

[http://www.archives.gov/digital\\_classroom/index.html](http://www.archives.gov/digital_classroom/index.html)

#### Hurricanes: Nature's Greatest Storms (NOAA)

<http://hurricanes.noaa.gov>

This site includes a wide range of information on basic hurricane science and many related topics such as travel during hurricane season, hurricane history and general storm facts.

#### Hurricanes @ nbc30.com

<http://www.nbc30.com/hurricanes/index.html>

Learn all there is to know about these devastating storms with our hurricanes interactive and information.

#### Hurricane: Storm Science

<http://www.miamisci.org/hurricane/>

Learn how storms happen, how to track storms, how to make a weather station, and more on this site from the Miami Museum of Science.

#### Hurricane Hunters

<http://www.hurricanehunters.com>

The 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron, known as the Hurricane Hunters of the Air Force Reserve, is one-of-a-kind: the only Department of Defense organization still flying into tropical storms and hurricanes--since 1944.

#### History of the Internet, Internet for Historians (and just about everyone else)

[http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/history/ivh/frame\\_theorie.html](http://www.let.leidenuniv.nl/history/ivh/frame_theorie.html)

The Internet is an innovation (or rather a series of innovations) that enables communication and transmission of data between computers at different locations. It is an extremely new scientific development, but that does not mean that we cannot analyze it historically, using the concepts that we apply to other past innovations.

#### Hobbes' Internet Timeline

<http://www.zakon.org/robert/internet/timeline/>

A timeline highlighting some of the key events and technologies helping shape the Internet as we know it today.

#### How Internet Infrastructure Works

<http://computer.howstuffworks.com/internet-infrastructure.htm>

One of the greatest things about the Internet is that nobody really owns it. It is a global collection of networks, both big and small. These networks connect together in many different ways to form the single entity that we know as the Internet.

#### Animals, Animals, Animals

<http://www.buschgardens.org/animal-info/index.htm>

Visit the Busch Gardens web site for up-to-date and student friendly information about a wide range of animals.

#### The National Zoo at the Smithsonian

<http://nationalzoo.si.edu/Visit/default.cfm>

The National Zoo Species Index of about 2,774 animals and 419 different species online. About one-fifth of the species are endangered or threatened. Most of the species are on exhibit at the National Zoo in Washington, D.C. A few are found only at our Conservation and Research Center in Virginia, which is not open to the public.

The National Zoo also has lists of and fact sheets about the species of [mammals](#), [birds](#), [reptiles and amphibians](#), [fish](#), and [invertebrates](#) in their collection. And, where else can you choose a [Naked Mole Rat Cam](#)?

#### Pathways to Freedom: Maryland & the Underground Railroad

<http://pathways.thinkport.org/following/home.cfm>

This website includes a Flash-based storytelling of African-American history. This web-based storytelling situates children inside the story and urges them to realize how differently their decision-making can affect societal change! "You are a Maryland slave... Travel back to the 1800s and become an eyewitness to history. You become a young slave who must make some important and life-changing decisions."

Referred by: Maryland Public Television

#### eThemes

##### Classroom Design: Layout

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001368.shtml>

Learn here how to plan a classroom layout, how to place furniture, and draw a floor plan. The sites include photographs and schematic drawings.

##### Classroom Design: School Furniture

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001363.shtml>

These commercial web sites offer computer workstations, tables, SMART boards, audio-video equipment, nontraditional desks, and other school furnishings. Includes furniture design specifications, furniture layouts, 360°QTVR photographs, and movies.

##### Holiday: Labor Day

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001365.shtml>

These sites are about the Labor Day holiday. Includes the history of Labor Day, why it is important, crafts, and lesson plans. There are word search and word scramble activities. Links to eThemes on career exploration and child labor are included.

##### Maps: Utah

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001358.shtml>

Learn about Utah regions, its climate, resources, and biomes. Learn about the state's native animals, birds, reptiles, fish and their natural habitats. Find out about geological highest and lowest points of the state. The sites include relief maps, print-outs, panoramic photographs, and quizzes. There are links to eThemes Resources on Utah's history, geography, mammals, endangered species.

#### Native Americans: Goshutes

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001360.shtml>

These websites are about the Goshute Indian tribe in Utah. Read about the people, their history, and their culture. Includes information about the temporary nuclear storage facility the Goshutes want to have on their reservation. There are links to eThemes resources on Native American culture and Utah history.

#### Native Americans: Paiutes

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001361.shtml>

These links are about the Paiute Native American tribe who live in Western states, including Utah. There is information about the history of the tribe and what life is like for Paiute Indians today. Many of the sites include photographs. There are also sites on legends of the Paiute and the Paiute language. Information about two famous Paiutes is included. There are links to eThemes resources on Native American culture and Utah History.

#### Native Americans: Shoshone

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001362.shtml>

These websites are about the Shoshone Indians. Includes information about their history, lifestyles, life today, and photographs. There is information about Sacagawea, the Shoshone who traveled with Lewis and Clark on their expedition. There are links to eThemes resources on Sacagawea, Native American culture, and Utah History.

#### Native Americans: Utes

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001359.shtml>

These resources are about the Ute Indians. Includes information about their history, culture, and present-day circumstances. Learn about the Bear Dance and the Sun Dance. Also includes resources about how the state of Utah was named. Includes links to eThemes resources on Native American culture and Utah history.

#### Math: Multiples and Factors

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001378.shtml>

These sites can help children understand multiples and factors and the difference between them. They also contain lessons on Least Common Multiple (LCM) and Greatest Common Factor (GCF). Includes interactive games, online exercises, in-class activities, and online factor generators.

#### Seasons

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001373.shtml>

These websites are about the Earth's seasons and why they occur. There are animations, worksheets, interactive quizzes, and lesson plans. One site allows you to send seasonal e-Cards to your friends. Includes links to eThemes on winter, spring, summer, and autumn.

#### Seasons: Spring

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001372.shtml>

These sites have spring crafts, worksheets, and lesson plans. One link is a slide show created by elementary school students. There are links to eThemes on kites and Easter.

#### Seasons: Summer

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001370.shtml>

These websites are about the summer season. There are information, games, worksheets, lesson plans, and crafts. Includes information about the sun, sunburns, camping, and more. There are links to eThemes on Independence Day, Labor Day, and Seasons.

#### Seasons: Winter

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001371.shtml>

These sites include activities, games, and information about winter. There are interactive games in which you can build a snowman or make a snowflake. There is information about winter sports and how animals deal with the winter cold. Included are links to eThemes Resources on snowflakes and frost, seasons, and various winter holidays.



#### Shakespeare: "Othello"

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001374.shtml>

These links are about Shakespeare's tragedy "Othello." Includes a full-text version of the play, games, study guides, and lesson plans. There are links to eThemes on Shakespeare and drama.

#### Summer Solstice

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001377.shtml>

Learn about the longest day and the shortest night on Earth - the summer solstice. Find how the planet's tilt and orbital rotation creates these days and nights. Learn about Stonehenge and how ancient people and various cultures recognized and celebrated the summer solstice. The sites include photographs, animations, a WebQuest, and hands-on activities as well as the eThemes resource on summer.

#### Winter Solstice

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001376.shtml>

These sites have information about the winter solstice - the first day of astronomical winter. Students can learn how the Earth's tilt and orbital motion influence the length of days and nights. Students can also find the history of pagan and Christian traditions and rituals of celebration that day. The sites include photographs, schematics, animation, and eThemes resource on winter, summer solstice, and seasons.

#### Animals: Hound Dogs

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001383.shtml>

These sites are about hound dogs. Read about bloodhounds, coonhounds, whippets, and other breeds of hound dogs. One site includes video clips of the different breeds. Includes links to eThemes on dachshunds and the novel "Where the Red Fern Grows," which is about a boy and his coonhounds.

#### Animals: Raccoons

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001382.shtml>

Learn about the familiar Northern American animal, the raccoon. The following pages include information about the raccoon's classification, history, habits, and habitats. Includes photographs, games, and coloring pages.

#### Australian Aborigines

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001375.shtml>

These sites are about the art and culture of the Australian Aborigines. There are animations, lesson plans, and pictures, as well as information about bark painting, Dreamtime stories, and the didgeridu instrument. Some sites have audio files so students can listen to the didgeridu.

There are also two maps of the Aborigine land. Includes a link to an eThemes on Australia.

#### Famous People: Albert Einstein

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001354.shtml>

Learn about one of the greatest physicists of the 20th century - Albert Einstein. Read about his life, discoveries, and theories. Learn here about two parts of the Relativity Theory: Special Relativity and General Relativity. Includes audio files, quizzes, animations, 3D simulations, and photographs.

#### Literature: "Where the Red Fern Grows" by Wilson Rawls

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001379.shtml>

Here are websites about the novel "Where the Red Fern Grows" by Wilson Rawls. Find out about the book, the author, Redbone Coonhound dogs, and the state of Oklahoma where the book takes place. Includes lesson plans, reviews, interactive quizzes, and worksheets. There are links to eThemes on friendship in literature, economics, raccoons, and hound dogs.

#### One Hundredth Day of School

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001394.shtml>

Find ideas about how to celebrate the 100th day of school. These sites contain lesson plans, activities, printable worksheets, poems, and craft ideas shared by teachers from all over the states.

Sites include fun activities for language arts, math, social studies, and science for elementary and middle school students.

Author Study: Scott O'Dell

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001381.shtml>

These websites are about author Scott O'Dell and his books. Learn about the Scott O'Dell Historical Fiction Book Award. Some websites include lists of his books. Read about O'Dell's life on his official website. There are also lesson plans, activities, and student reviews for several of his books. There are links to eThemes on his book "Island of the Blue Dolphins," Historical Fiction, the Iditarod, Native American Culture, and the Revolutionary War.

Literature: "Island of the Blue Dolphins" by Scott O'Dell

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001393.shtml>

These websites are about the book "Island of the Blue Dolphins" by Scott O'Dell. Read about the author and the book. Includes worksheets, reviews, lesson plans, and an interactive quiz. Includes links to eThemes resources on Scott O'Dell and bottlenose dolphins.

Literature: "The Cay" by Theodore Taylor

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001387.shtml>

The following web sites are dedicated to Theodore Taylor's book The Cay. They include the author's biography, historical overview and photographs of the Caribbean and Curacao Island, eThemes resources about World War II and hurricanes. The sites also include lesson plans, suggested activities, and teacher reviews.

Literature: "The House of Dies Drear" by Virginia Hamilton

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001388.shtml>

These websites are about the book "The House of Dies Drear" and author Virginia Hamilton. Includes lesson plans, quizzes, excerpts, and games. There are links to eThemes resources on writing mysteries and the Underground Railroad.

Literature: "The Monkey's Paw" by W.W. Jacobs

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001390.shtml>

These sites are about the short story "The Monkey's Paw" by W.W. Jacobs. Includes full text of the story, quizzes, lesson plans, and vocabulary worksheets. There are also links to games about short story elements and a booklist of other horror stories and books. Includes links to eThemes resources on Story Elements and Character Traits.

Math: Expanded Form

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00001385.shtml>

These sites are designed to help kids understand and practice writing numbers in expanded form. Here you will find explanations and definitions of expanded form. Included are online exercises, quizzes, worksheets, board games, and in class activities.

Math: Place Value

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000785.shtml>

These sites focus on place value and cover basic concepts and place value charts. Includes many interactive games and quizzes. There are also some activity ideas and video clips.

Updated eThemes

Animals: Chihuahuas

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000936.shtml>

These sites are about Chihuahuas, the world's smallest dogs. Learn about the history, appearance, and life span of this toy breed. Find out whether they make good pets for children. There is a link to an eThemes Resource on other Toy Breeds.

Animals: Clydesdales

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000917.shtml>

Learn about Clydesdale horses, which are a breed of draft horses. Find out how much these large animals eat, how tall they are, and the size of their enormous hooves. There is information about their

behavior, characteristics, and history. Includes many photographs. There is a link to an eThemes resource on horses.

Literature: "The Chocolate Touch" by Patrick Catling

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000564.shtml>

Sites about the book "The Chocolate Touch" and suggested activities. There are units on chocolate with hands-on activities to use in the classroom. Includes links to eThemes Resources on chocolate, book activities, and story elements.

Literature: "Ralph S. Mouse" by Beverly Cleary

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000643.shtml>

These sites focus on the book "Ralph S. Mouse." Includes activities, lesson plans, and an interactive quiz. There are links to eThemes Resources on author Beverly Cleary, mice, book activities, and the book "The Mouse and the Motorcycle."

Literature: "The Mouse and the Motorcycle" by Beverly Cleary

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000968.shtml>

These sites have lesson plans, activity ideas, and online quizzes about the book "The Mouse and the Motorcycle." There are links to eThemes resources on author Beverly Cleary and mice.

Shakespeare: "Macbeth"

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000740.shtml>

These sites have summaries, study questions, and lesson plans for the tragedy "Macbeth" by William Shakespeare. Read the entire play online, take an online tour of the Glamis Castle, or watch a "Star Wars" version of the movie created by students. There are links to eThemes resources on Shakespeare's life and "Drama for Students."

Technology: Computer Basics

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000148.shtml>

These sites are about basic computer operations and parts. Learn about the Internet, mouse, keyboard, and basic computer software. Includes information about the history of computers and basic computer software.

Grammar: Contractions

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000499.shtml>

These sites cover the grammar rules of how to form contractions. Includes interactive contraction games and exercises.

Literature: "The Wizard of Oz" by L. Frank Baum

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000776.shtml>

These sites are about the book "The Wizard of Oz" and the 1939 movie by MGM. Includes information on author L. Frank Baum, literature guides, lesson plans, vocabulary words, and discussion questions. Read the entire book online and download the movie script. Play online games about the book.

Math: Multiplication

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000174.shtml>

These sites offer many fun interactive games that let students practice their multiplication skills. Includes multiplication tables, flashcards, and classroom activity ideas.

Grammar: Contractions

<http://www.emints.org/ethemes/resources/S00000499.shtml>

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